

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [02] with the following amended paragraph:

[02] This application is related to commonly-owned U.S. Application No. 09/872,764, filed July 31, 2001, entitled "USER INTERFACE FOR MANAGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY," listing Jeffry J. Grainger as inventor, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application is also related to commonly-owned and concurrently filed U.S. Application No. 09/996,077, _____ (~~Attorney Docket No. 020313-000710US~~), filed November 27, 2001, entitled "METHOD OF DEFINING WORKFLOW RULES FOR MANAGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY," listing Jeffry J. Grainger as inventor, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [54] with the following amended paragraph:

[54] In one particular embodiment, a method of controlling document edits 700 may begin in a draft phase 710 by creating a package at step 711 for containing the documents to be filed in the patent office. A package is a logical grouping of electronic documents to be sent to a patent office that is represented graphically by a single icon. Electronic documents may be linked to a particular package by pointers or attributes associated with the package. It is to be understood, however, that a variety of well-known programming techniques could be employed to implement the package concept. At 712 the documents to be entered into ~~the~~ the package are created. For instance, a non-provisional patent application and associated filing forms may be generated in filing package folder 801 at step 712. It is to be understood that the electronic documents associated with a non-

provisional patent application may be formatted in a variety of format types (e.g., .doc, .txt, .pdf, etc.). Documents may also be selected from different portions of the document section of the trifold, and may be moved or copied into the draft folder 810. In the trifold of Fig. 8, documents and packages created in the draft phase 710 are stored in the draft folder 810. At step 713 the documents are entered into a single package for filing in a patent office as a complete patent filing 802 (e.g., a complete patent application with all supporting documents).

Please replace paragraph [59] with the following amended paragraph:

[59] Embodiments of the present invention are particularly advantageous in applications using a distributed filing model exemplified by IP data processing system 100 discussed above. One problem faced by such system is that the person performing review and verification of a package before filing (~~e.g., (e.g.,~~ a patent attorney or agent), must be certain that the documents review are the same as the documents actually filed. However, for remote IP data processing systems, the reviewing and verifying entity is not directly involved in the submission process, other than transmitting a remote signal indicating that the documents are to be filed. Therefore, Fig. 9 illustrates a method of controlling document edits according to one embodiment of the present invention that ensures documents in the package, as reviewed, are the same as the documents submitted to a patent office. At step 901, documents are edited, and final drafts are completed. At step 902, a package may be created. At step 903, a user generates a signal indicating that the package is ready to be filed (e.g., via an electronic "Ready to File" button, menu item, or equivalent). In response to the ready to file signal, the system may automatically transform the electronic documents in the package from their native format types into a document type that has the property of being viewable (i.e., displayed to a user) exactly as it will be printed at 904. Document types with this

property are referred to herein as “printview type” documents. One example of such a document type is a .pdf document. However, other document types having this property may also be used. Additionally, the system may optionally move the package into a ready to file folder, if a graphical user interface similar to the one discussed above is used.

Please replace paragraph [60] with the following amended paragraph:

[60] Transforming the documents in the package from their native format types to a document type that can be viewed exactly as it will be printed allows the reviewing and verifying entities to be certain that the documents they are reviewing and verifying will be printed exactly as reviewed. The “printview type” documents are reviewed and verified at step 905. Review and verification may be done remotely in a distributed filing system such as IP data processing system 100. If a document in the package contains an error or inaccuracy, then the package is not verified at 906, and the user may generate a signal indicating that the package is to be returned for editing (e.g., via an electronic “Return to Draft” button, menu item, or equivalent). ~~equivalent~~. In such a case, the documents in the package may be automatically transformed back into their native format type for further editing at step 901. However, if a document in the package is correct and without discovered errors, then the package is verified at 907, and the user may generate a signal indicating that the package can be filed (e.g., via an electronic “File” button, menu item, or equivalent). At step 909, the package is entered into an outgoing mail queue. Additionally, the system may optionally move the package into a filed folder, if a graphical user interface similar to the one discussed above is used. At step 910, the package may be manually printed and filed in a patent office or electronically filed in a patent office. At step 911, the file may be manually or automatically associated with

other documents in the file history of the particular case to which the package is related. For example, the system may optionally move the package into a file history section of a graphical user interface, if a graphical user interface similar to the one discussed above is used.